MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal has been Jointly inspected by the Railways and Irrigation Authorities. The Irrigation Department has been advised to carryout the work under Railways supervision duly depositing the supervision and other charges as per Railway rules.

Derailment of Hyderabad-Narsapur Express

749. SHRI N. R. DASARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad-Narsapur Express got derailed near Sattenapalli in Guntur District on 8th October killing 11 persons and injuring more than 30 persons;

(b) whether anohter derailment took place within a week, i.e. on 15th Oct. at the same route at Maniguda village near nalgonda town involving Inter City Express, between Hyderabad and Guntur, injuring sixteen persons;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has wanted an inquiry into frequent accidents by an independent agency other than railway Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes sir, there was derailment of 7056 Hyderabad-Narsapur Express on 8.10.1998 wherein 11 persons were killed and 37 injured.

(b) yes sir, there was also another derailment of 7006 Inter City Express in which 12 persons were injured.

(c) The accidents were due to Sabotage and human failure respectively.

(d) and (e) yes sir, the accident enquiry in case of above mentioned accident is being conducted by Commissisoner of Railway Safety, South Central circle who is an independent authority under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Conversion of Express Train into Ordinary Train

750. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific rule for converting an Express train into an ordinary train at any point, after its departure from the starting point as Express one;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) on how many occasions the 3103 UP Bhagirathi Express was converted into ordinary passenger train from Krishnagar city Junction during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, during dislocations caused by derailments/agitatiosn some Express trains are provided additional stoppages to clear standed passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 3103 Up Bhagirathi express has been provided some additional stoppags to clear standed passengers between Debagram and Lalgola on 4 occasions during the last six months (between May 1998 and Oct. 1998).

Rail Accidents

751. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents involving goods as well as passenger trains during last ten months;

(b) how many of these were due to derailments;

(c) the losses due to these accidents;

(d) whether human factor has been the main cause for these accidents; and

(e) if so, details of specific steps taken to minimise such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Number of accidents during last ten months (January to October, 98)--Passenger 165

Others	177
Total	342

(b) There were 253 derailments during th. same period.

Passenger	97
Others	156
Total	253

(c) Losses due to these accidents are provisionaly estimated at Rs. 42.08 cr.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilitis for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety conciousness among the staff.

Security and amenities to the rail passengers

752. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleasd to state:

(a) whether the Railway Passengers' Amenities Committees have submitted a report recently;

(b) if so, their comments on passengers amenities and Government railway police; and

(c) the steps taken to provide better security and amenities to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Inspection reports recorded by the Chairman and Members of the Passengers' Amenities